

Teacher's Guide and Lesson Plan

Visiting the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart and Museum Exhibits

Compatible with the 7th Grade Religion curriculum

Listed below are the 12 topics (A-M) outlined in the Religion curriculum. The specific teaching objectives for each topic that can be applied directly to the visit to the Cathedral are outlined below, along with corresponding class activities. Depending on the amount of material that has been covered in the classroom prior to the students' visit, teachers may select or omit certain activities.

A. PRAYER/LITURGY

Objective #1 Pray formally and spontaneously as an integral part of the day.

Corresponding activity: During their visit to the Cathedral, students will be encouraged to pray individually or together as a class during a worship service or Mass.

B. TEACHINGS OF THE CHURCH/FAITH

Objective #3 Identify the individual roles within the church (Pope, Bishops, etc.)

Corresponding activity: Students will tour the Cathedral, the Mother Church of the Diocese and the Bishop's church.

Questions to discuss before visit:

What is a "Diocese"? A Diocese is a large geographical territory or region that is made up of many parishes. One bishop is appointed to oversee each diocese. Our diocese is called the "Diocese of Richmond" because Richmond is the "seat," or the place where the bishop resides. Interestingly, Diocese means "household" in Greek!

Trivia question: Who is the Patron Saint of our Diocese?

(Answer: Saint Vincent de Paul. There is a stained glass window dedicated to him at the Cathedral. Look for it on your tour!)

What is a Cathedral? This is the official church where the bishop's chair or "cathedra" is located. The Cathedral is the bishop's church and the Mother Church of the Diocese.

What is a *cathedra*? *Cathedra*, which means "chair" in Latin, is the bishop's seat. The cathedra is a symbol of the bishop's authority over his Diocese. You will see this special seat when you visit the Cathedral.

What is the bishop's role? The bishop has authority over his diocese. He spends a good deal of his time visiting parishes in order to carry out these three roles: 1) a successor of

the Apostles; 2) the pastoral leader of the Diocese; 3) a teacher of the faith, which includes administering the sacraments and governing the local Church.

How does a priest become a bishop? First, the pope appoints bishops. Then, through episcopal ordination, a priest becomes a bishop. This is the third and fullest level of the Sacrament of Holy Orders. During this ceremony, three bishops lay hands on the priest being ordained bishop, and his head is anointed with Sacred Chrism.

Objective #4 Review of the *Theological virtues*

Corresponding activity: The emblems of the three theological virtues (faith, hope and love) are part of the design of the stained glass windows in the Cathedral's sacristy. Students will tour sacristy to learn about the function of this space and be asked to identify the symbols of these three virtues on their worksheets.

C. CHURCH HISTORY/TRADITIONS

Objective #2 The Church is the People of God; Christ is Head, *we the baptized are members.*

Corresponding activity: Students will tour the Baptistry, learn about its symbolic placement at entrance to church and compare the original baptismal font with the one used today.

Questions to discuss before visit:

What is a baptistry? In older churches, baptisms used to take place in special rooms or separate buildings called "baptisteries." The baptistry was always located near the entrance to the church.

Why is the baptistry near the front door of the church? This is symbolic as baptism is the entrance into the Catholic faith. The Cathedral of the Sacred Heart has a baptistry, but it is now used as the Reconciliation Room and as a space to exhibit artifacts and the 100-year-old baptismal font. The church now uses a newer font in the main body of the church, near the entrance. You will see both fonts during your tour.

"Holy Baptism is the basis of the whole Christian life, the gateway to life in the Spirit, and the door which gives access to the other sacraments. Through Baptism ... we become members of Christ, are incorporated into the Church and made sharers in her mission...."

- The Catechism of the Catholic Church, # 1213

Objective #3 Analyze the early church traditions and compare them to modern day practices.

Corresponding activity: Have class discussion prior to visit about **4 traditions** that have changed over the last one-hundred years, each of which will be reinforced during tour of Cathedral: the traditions of Baptism, Penance and Reconciliation, the Celebration of Mass and the Consecration/Dedication of a church.

1. **Baptism** As previously mentioned, the manner in which the sacrament of baptism is celebrated today is different in several ways. Baptismal fonts are frequently found in plain view in the main body of the church, near the entrance, rather than in separate rooms; baptisms used to be celebrated as a private ceremony whereas today, baptisms are often part of the parish community's Sunday liturgy.
2. **The Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation** The celebration of the sacrament of penance and reconciliation has seen many changes over the centuries. For example, in the early Church, serious sins were confessed to the bishop. Often the repentant sinner then had to join a group called the "order of penitents" and spend time publicly in fasting and prayer.

In 1974, the Church revised the rite so that it could be more fully understood by the faithful. This called for a greater emphasis on the experience of *reconciliation*. Throughout the celebration of the rite, the priest creates a prayerful and encouraging atmosphere in which the penitent feels the forgiving love of Jesus.

At the Cathedral, the person's confession of sins used to take place inside small confessional booths. As you will see during your visit, the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation now takes place in the room that was once the Baptistry. ***What happened to the booths?*** The Cathedral's confessional booths have been given new glass windows so that they can be used as exhibit cases!

3. **Celebration of Mass** In Catholic churches, the Celebration of Mass has changed a lot since the 1960s. The biggest changes are: 1) Mass is now celebrated in the native language of the church, rather than entirely in Latin. (For example, if the congregation speaks English, Mass is celebrated in the English language); 2) When celebrating Mass, the priest faces his congregation, rather than facing the altar with his back to the congregation. This allows the people to participate more easily in the Mass through prayer, song and responses.

When these changes were made to the celebration of Mass, the Cathedral's altar was changed, too. It was moved forward to be closer to the congregation so they could better hear and see the priest or the bishop during Mass.

4. **Consecration/Dedication of a Church** *What's the difference?*

The word "consecrate" means to declare something as being holy or sacred and for religious use only. For a church, this means that the building is to be used exclusively for worship. Consecration of a church used to be performed by a bishop or bishops before the public was allowed to go into it.

When the Cathedral was consecrated over 100 years ago, the ritual was a long and elaborate event that took several hours to complete. In fact, the bishops who performed the consecration started at 6:00 o'clock in the morning! As part of this rite, the consecrators sprinkled holy water on the walls of the Cathedral, anointed the walls with chrism oil, and blessed all of the altars – the Cathedral has five!

In the 1970s, the rite of *Consecration* was changed into the rite of *Dedication*. In a church dedication, the people of the church get to be involved in the ceremony, not just their bishop. Through a dedication, a church is declared as a sacred space because of what takes place *within* it. It becomes dedicated to the worship of God, the celebration of the sacraments, prayer for the needs of all God's people.

D. SACRAMENTS

Objective #2 and #3 Understand the purpose for the sacraments of initiation, vocation and healing; understand the purpose of RCIA program and its place in Easter Vigil.

Corresponding activity: Prior to visit, discuss Holy Oils and their use in these sacraments. During their tour, students will see the three oils that were blessed by the bishop during the Chrism Mass and answer a question about the oils on their worksheet.

Questions to discuss before visit:

What happens at the Chrism Mass? At the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart, the Chrism Mass usually takes place on the Monday of Holy Week. During this Mass the bishop blesses three types of oil, stored in large containers, which are then distributed to all the parishes and priests in the Diocese. At the Cathedral, these oils are kept in a special case that you will see during your tour.

What are the oils used for? The Oil of the Catechumens is used to bless those preparing for their baptism. Sacred Chrism is used to anoint newly baptized persons, and is also used when administering the Sacraments of Confirmation or Holy Orders. The Oil of the Sick is used in conferring the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick.

Objective #4 Participate in the sacramental life of the church.

Corresponding activity: Participating in Noon Mass at the Cathedral.

E. NEW TESTAMENT

Objective #4 Know the sign, symbols of the writers and audience of the gospel.

Corresponding activity: At the Cathedral, students will be asked to identify the symbols representing the four Evangelists on their worksheet.

Objective #7 Know the location of the Holy Land during Jesus' time and currently.

Corresponding activity: While touring the Baptistery exhibit, students will see the Cathedral's cornerstone which came from the Garden of Gethsemane. This is a good opportunity to recall the location of Gethsemane and significant events that took place there. (Prior to visit, students should familiarize themselves with its location on a map).

The Garden of Gethsemane Gethsemane, meaning "oil-press," is located on a slope of the Mount of Olives, just across the Kidron Valley from Jerusalem. Jesus frequently went to Gethsemane with His disciples to pray. The night before his crucifixion, the betrayal and arrest of Jesus took place there.

The Cornerstone During his visit to the Holy Land in 1883, Bishop John Keane obtained large a stone from the Garden of Gethsemane. He brought it back to Richmond to someday be used as a cornerstone. This was twenty years before the Cathedral was even built! You will see this special stone during your tour.

I. MISSION/EVANGELIZATION/SERVICE

Objective #1 Identify, develop and/or participate in outreach programs

Human Concerns Ministry

The Cathedral's "Human Concerns Ministry" coordinates a variety of activities that support Jesus' call to serve our neighbors in need. As outlined in the Parish Resource Guide, there are many ways to become involved in outreach programs through the Cathedral. This guide can be found on the Cathedral's website at www.richmondcathedral.org.

Would your class like to participate in community outreach through the Cathedral? Donate to the local food bank! The Cathedral accepts and distributes canned food donations year-round. Your class is encouraged to take up a donation and bring a box/bag of non-perishable food items to the Cathedral on the day of your visit. For more information about this and other outreach programs, please contact Martha Harper at 804-248-0991, or harperma@vcu.edu.



**Cathedral of the Sacred Heart
Scavenger Hunt Worksheet – 7th Grade Religion**

Depending on size of the class, students can complete the worksheet individually or in small groups.

- 1) At the entrance to the Cathedral, you will see three vessels of holy oil on display.
Can you identify the names of each?

OI stands for _____

SC stands for _____

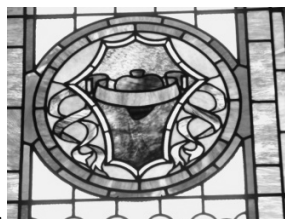
OC stands for _____

- 2) The picture of which Saint appears over the doorway to the Baptistry?

- 3) Why is baptismal font placed near the entrance to the church?

- 4) In the Baptistry Gallery, which artifact was used for “exposition and benediction of the Blessed Sacrament”? _____

- 5) The emblems of the three theological virtues (faith, hope and love) are depicted in the design of the windows in the Cathedral’s sacristy. Identify the 3 virtues that these windows symbolize:



a.



b.



c.

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

- 6) The emblem depicted in the single panel window in the sacristy depicts the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet, alpha ("Α") and omega ("Ω"). What does the combination of these two letters represent?



- 7)



When changes were made to the liturgy of the Eucharist in the 1960s, the Cathedral's altar was changed, too.

It was moved forward to be closer to the congregation, so they could better see and hear the bishop or priest celebrating Mass.

Can you find the crucifix that used to sit on top of the old altar? Hint: it is still "hanging around" the Cathedral's sanctuary!

- 8) During the Cathedral's consecration, Archbishop Diomedede Falconio anointed the interior walls with chrism oil in twelve different places. These 12 spots were marked with brass crosses which each held a lit candle. **What could 12 lighted candles symbolize?**

This is Diomedede Falconio, the Apostolic Delegate to the United States. He was invited to consecrate the Cathedral in 1906.



- 9) Surrounding the dome, you'll find the four Evangelists and their symbols. Can you name the four Evangelists and their symbols?

_____ his symbol is: _____
_____ his symbol is: _____
_____ his symbol is: _____
_____ his symbol is: _____

- 10) Centuries ago, stained glass windows, paintings and other interior and exterior church decorations were used to teach the illiterate about stories found in the Bible, as well as other aspects of the Christian faith.

The eight stained glass windows found in the side aisles tell stories from the life of Christ.

Look at the Power of the Keys window. Can you name 3 symbols that help to identify this story?

- 1) _____
2) _____
3) _____

- 11) Find the stained glass window that depicts the Patron Saint of the Diocese of Richmond.

Who is the Patron Saint? _____

Find the stained glass window that depicts the Patron Saint of Workers.

Who is the Patron Saint? _____

- 12) Inside the dome of the Cathedral, visible in the sanctuary, is a dove with projecting rays.

What does the dove symbolize? _____

- 13) This dove is placed way above our heads, in the ceiling, behind a window of clear glass. Which story from the New Testament does this remind us of?

- 14) Name the three Bishops of the Diocese of Richmond who are buried in the Crypt:



**Cathedral of the Sacred Heart
Scavenger Hunt Worksheet - Answer Key**

Depending on size of the class, students can complete the worksheet individually or in small groups.

- 7) At the entrance to the Cathedral, you will see three vessels of holy oil on display.
Can you identify the names of each?

OI stands for Oil of the Infirm

SC stands for Sacred Chrism

OC stands for Oil of the Catechumen

- 8) The picture of which Saint appears over the doorway to the Baptistery?

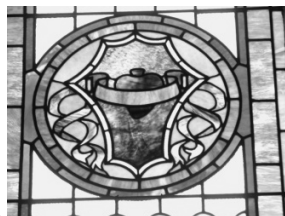
St. John the Baptist

- 9) Why is baptismal font placed near the entrance to the church?

Because baptism symbolizes the entrance into the Catholic faith

- 10) In the Baptistery Gallery, which artifact was used for "exposition and benediction of the Blessed Sacrament"? the monstrance

- 11) The emblems of the three theological virtues (faith, hope and love) are depicted in the design of the windows in the Cathedral's sacristy. Identify the 3 virtues that these windows symbolize:



a.

b. Love



b.

b. Faith



c.

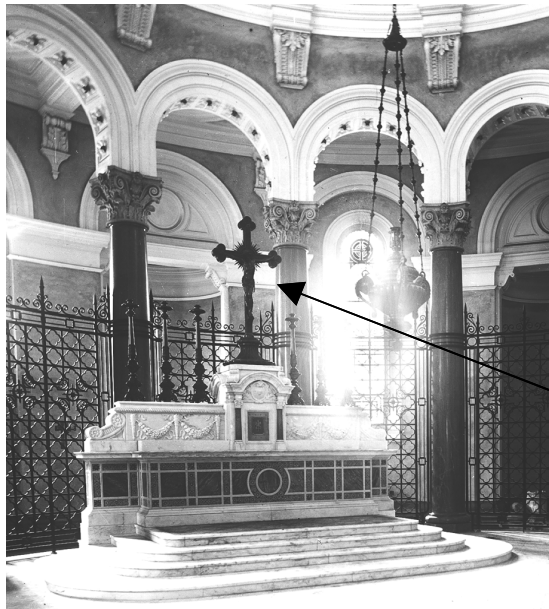
c. Hope

- 12) The emblem depicted in the single panel window in the sacristy depicts the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet, alpha ("Α") and omega ("Ω"). What does the combination of these two letters represent?

Christ. (The beginning and end; a symbol of Christ's infinitude and eternal existence.)



7)



When changes were made to the liturgy of the Eucharist in the 1960s, the Cathedral's altar was changed, too.

It was moved forward to be closer to the congregation, so they could better see and hear the bishop or priest celebrating Mass.

Can you find the crucifix that used to sit on top of the old altar? Hint: it is still "hanging around" the Cathedral's sanctuary!

- 8) During the Cathedral's consecration, Archbishop Diomedede Falconio anointed the interior walls with chrism oil in twelve different places. These 12 spots were marked with brass crosses which each held a lit candle. **What could 12 lighted candles symbolize?**

Answer: The Twelve Apostles. When Christ chose his twelve apostles, he said: "You are the light of the world" (Matt. 5:14). The candles were lit during the consecration in remembrance of this.

This is Diomedede Falconio, the Apostolic Delegate to the United States. He was invited to consecrate the Cathedral in 1906.



- 9) Surrounding the dome, you'll find the four Evangelists and their symbols. Can you name the four Evangelists and their symbols?

<u>Saint Matthew</u>	his symbol is: <u>the winged man</u>
<u>Saint Mark</u>	his symbol is: <u>the lion</u>
<u>Saint Luke</u>	his symbol is: <u>the ox</u>
<u>Saint John</u>	his symbol is: <u>the eagle</u>

- 10) Centuries ago, stained glass windows, paintings and other interior and exterior church decorations were used to teach the illiterate about stories found in the Bible, as well as other aspects of the Christian faith.

The eight stained glass windows found in the side aisles tell stories from the life of Christ.

Look at the Power of the Keys window. Can you name 3 symbols that help to identify this story?

- 1) Keys
- 2) fish in a net
- 3) a fishing boat/ship at sea

- 11) Find the stained glass window that depicts the Patron Saint of the Diocese of Richmond.

Who is the Patron Saint? Saint Vincent de Paul

Find the stained glass window that depicts the Patron Saint of Workers.

Who is the Patron Saint? Saint Joseph

- 12) Inside the dome of the Cathedral, visible in the sanctuary, is a dove with projecting rays.

What does the dove symbolize? The Holy Spirit

- 13) This dove is placed way above our heads, in the ceiling, behind a window of clear glass. Which story from the New Testament does this remind us of?

The Holy Spirit descending "like a dove" on the disciples at the first Pentacost.

- 14) Name the three Bishops of the Diocese of Richmond who are buried in the Crypt:

Bishop McGill, Bishop Ireton and Bishop Russell